

PATENT

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Date

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Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

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Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is responsive to the Office Action dated November 19, 2002.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.

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1.(Previously Cancelled)

2.(TWICE AMENDED) A self-service terminal as in Claim 85 g in which said ticket types include instant-winner pull-tab tickets stored in stacks of separate tickets.

3.-6.(Previously Cancelled)

7. (PREVIOUSLY THRICE AMENDED & NOW ALLOWED) A multi-game ticket self-service terminal comprising:

4 a housing for storing a plurality of different types of game tickets, said types including lottery tickets stored in strips in which individual tickets are delineated from one another by lines of weakness;

a currency acceptor device mounted in said housing to accept currency and produce a corresponding number of credits;

credit display means in communication with the currency acceptor device and mounted in the housing for displaying the number of credits;

dispensing means for selectively dispensing said tickets according to the number of credits;

detector means for detecting a winning amount displayed on a ticket previously dispensed from the dispensing means; and

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credit means for increasing the number of credits corresponding to the winning amount;

wherein the dispensing means further comprises a separator mechanism for separating tickets from one another before being guided out of said housing, said separator mechanism including at least one rotary dull helical separator member, at least one detector mounted in said housing for detecting the position of said tickets and a drive device mounted in said housing and coupled to the separator member to selectively rotate said separator member to separate said tickets.

8.(THRICE AMENDED) A multi-game ticket self-service terminal comprising:

a housing for storing a plurality of different types of game tickets, said types including lottery tickets stored in strips in which individual tickets are delineated from one another by lines of weakness;

a currency acceptor device mounted in said housing to accept currency and produce a corresponding number of credits;

credit display means in communication with the currency acceptor device and mounted in the housing for displaying the number of credits;

dispensing means for selectively dispensing said tickets according to the number of credits;

detector means for detecting a winning amount displayed on a ticket previously dispensed from the dispensing means; and

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credit means for increasing the number of credits corresponding to the winning amount;

Σ1 ~~A self-service terminal as in Claim 35 in which said dispensing means includes~~ including a plurality of dispensing mechanisms, each including a separator/drive module, said module comprising a drive housing, inlet and outlet openings in said drive housing, a rotary separator member rotatably mounted in said housing and positioned to extend across a ticket strip dispensing path for extending across one of said strips when a strip is in a position for dispensing, a first ticket drive device in said drive housing between said inlet opening and said separator member to move said strip to a separation location, and a second ticket drive device mounted adjacent said separator member for moving at least one ticket away from said separator member and through said outlet opening.

9-34.(Previously Cancelled)

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35.(CANCELED) A multi-game ticket self-service terminal comprising:

a housing for storing a plurality of different types of game tickets, said types including lottery tickets stored in strips in which individual tickets are delineated from one another by lines of weakness;

a currency acceptor device mounted in said housing to accept currency and produce a corresponding number of credits;

credit display means in communication with the currency acceptor device and mounted in the housing for displaying the number of credits;

61 dispensing means for selectively dispensing said tickets according to the number of credits;

detector means for detecting a winning amount displayed on a ticket previously dispensed from the dispensing means; and

credit means for increasing the number of credits corresponding to the winning amount.

36.(Previously Cancelled)

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37.(CANCELED) A combination comprising:

(a) a plurality of different types of game tickets, said types including lottery tickets stored in strips in which individual tickets are delineated from one another by lines of weakness;

(b) a multi-game ticket self-service terminal comprising:

(1) a housing for storing the plurality of different types of game tickets;

(2) a currency acceptor device mounted in said housing to accept currency and produce a corresponding number of credits;

(3) credit display means in communication with the currency acceptor device and mounted in the housing for displaying the number of credits;

81 (4) dispensing means for selectively dispensing said tickets according to the number of credits;

(5) detector means for detecting a winning amount displayed on a ticket previously dispensed from the dispensing means; and

(6) credit means for increasing the number of credits corresponding to the winning amount.

38.(AMENDED) The combination of Claim ~~97~~ 39 in which said ticket types include instant-winner pull-tab tickets stored in stacks of separate tickets.

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39.(AMENDED) A combination comprising:

(a) a plurality of different types of game tickets, said types including lottery tickets stored in strips in which individual tickets are delineated from one another by lines of weakness;

(b) a multi-game ticket self-service terminal comprising:

(1) a housing for storing the plurality of different types of game tickets;

(2) a currency acceptor device mounted in said housing to accept currency and produce a corresponding number of credits;

51 (3) credit display means in communication with the currency acceptor device and mounted in the housing for displaying the number of credits;

(4) dispensing means for selectively dispensing said tickets according to the number of credits;

~~The combination of Claim 37 in which~~ said dispensing means includes including a plurality of dispensing mechanisms, each including a separator/drive module, said module comprising a drive housing, inlet and outlet openings in said drive housing, a rotary separator member rotatably mounted in said housing and positioned to extend across a ticket strip dispensing path for extending across one of said strips when a strip is in a position for dispensing, a first ticket drive device in said drive housing between said inlet opening and said separator member to move said strip to a separation location, and a second ticket drive device mounted adjacent said separator

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member for moving at least one ticket away from said separator member and through said outlet opening;

(5) detector means for detecting a winning amount displayed on a ticket previously dispensed from the dispensing means; and

(6) credit means for increasing the number of credits corresponding to the winning amount.

40.(Previously Cancelled)

41.(CANCELED) A combination comprising:

(a) a strip of tickets in which individual tickets are delineated from one another by lines of weakness;

(b) a separator/drive module for driving and separating at least one of the tickets from an adjacent ticket in the strip, the module comprising:

(1) a housing;

(2) an inlet opening and an outlet opening in said housing;

(3) a rotary separator member rotatably mounted in said housing and positioned across a ticket strip dispensing path to span said strip and extend in a direction transverse to said strip when said strip is in position for separation;

(4) a first ticket drive device in said housing between said inlet opening and said separator member to move said strip to a separation location; and



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(5) a second ticket drive device mounted in said housing for moving at least one ticket away from said separator member and through said outlet opening.

42.(AMENDED) The combination of Claim 41 ~~43~~ in which said separator member has a shaft with a helical projection extending therefrom, and including a drive motor mounted in said housing and coupled to said shaft to selectively rotate said shaft to separate tickets in said strip.

43.(AMENDED) A combination comprising:

(a) a strip of tickets in which individual tickets are delineated from one another by lines of weakness;

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(b) a separator/drive module for driving and separating at least one of the tickets from an adjacent ticket in the strip, the module comprising:

(1) a housing;

(2) an inlet opening and an outlet opening in said housing;

(3) a rotary separator member rotatably mounted in said housing and positioned across a ticket strip dispensing path to span said strip and extend in a direction transverse to said strip when said strip is in position for separation;

(4) a first ticket drive device in said housing between said inlet opening and said separator member to move said strip to a separation location;

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(5) a second ticket drive device mounted in said housing for moving at least one ticket away from said separator member and through said outlet opening; and

~~The combination of Claim 41 further comprising:~~

(6) a controller in the housing and operably coupled to the first and second ticket drive devices to inactivate the drive devices and hold the ticket strip stationary during operation of the rotary separator member to separate at least one of the tickets from the strip.

44.(AMENDED) The combination of Claim ~~41~~ 43 wherein the separator/drive module has only one rotary separator member.

41 45.(AMENDED) The combination of Claim ~~41~~ 43 wherein the rotary separator member is mounted for rotation about an axis generally transverse to the ticket strip dispensing path.

46.(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A separator/drive module for driving and separating tickets from a strip of tickets in which individual tickets are delineated from one another by lines of weakness, said module comprising: a housing, inlet and outlet openings in said housing, a rotary separator member rotatably mounted in said housing and positioned across a ticket strip dispensing path to span said strip and extend in a direction transverse to said strip when said strip is in position for separation, a first ticket

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drive device in said housing between said inlet opening and said separator member to move said strip to a separation location, and a second ticket drive device mounted in said housing for moving at least one ticket away from said separator member and through said outlet opening, and

a controller in the housing and operably coupled to the first and second ticket drive devices to inactivate the drive devices and hold the ticket strip stationary during operation of the rotary separator member to separate at least one of the tickets from the strip.

47. (TWICE AMENDED) ~~A separator/drive module for driving and separating tickets from a strip of tickets in which individual tickets are delineated from one another by lines of weakness, said module comprising: a housing, inlet and outlet openings in said housing, a rotary separator member rotatably mounted in said housing and positioned across a ticket strip dispensing path to span said strip and extend in a direction transverse to said strip when said strip is in position for separation, a first ticket drive device in said housing between said inlet opening and said separator member to move said strip to a separation location, and a second ticket drive device mounted in said housing for moving at least one ticket away from said separator member and through said outlet opening. The module of claim 46 wherein the separator/drive module has only one rotary separator member.~~

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48.(TWICE AMENDED) ~~A separator/drive module for driving and separating tickets from a strip of tickets in which individual tickets are delineated from one another by lines of weakness, said module comprising: a housing, inlet and outlet openings in said housing, a rotary separator member rotatably mounted in said housing and positioned across a ticket strip dispensing path to span said strip and extend in a direction transverse to said strip when said strip is in position for separation, a first ticket drive device in said housing between said inlet opening and said separator member to move said strip to a separation location, and a second ticket drive device mounted in said housing for moving at least one ticket away from said separator member and through said outlet opening. The module of claim 46 wherein the rotary separator member is mounted for rotation about an axis generally transverse to the ticket strip dispensing path.~~

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49.(NEW) The module of Claim 46 in which said separator member has a shaft with a helical projection extending therefrom, and including a drive motor mounted in said housing and coupled to said shaft to selectively rotate said shaft to separate tickets in said strip.

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